

Now, by opposing the block grant concept, my Democrat colleagues and the Clinton administration are trying to convince the American people that big brother Government knows what's better for a community than the people who live there. They call this proposal mean spirited and callous. In reality, the only mean spirited thing in this whole debate is the current state of our welfare system.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I think I understand why my colleagues oppose these reforms. They are simply afraid to admit the Great Society failed. But, now is the time for us to move on and begin transforming our welfare system from a social drug promoting dependence to a program that enables the participants to become productive members of society.

HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO PAY?

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, before we take up the takings bill, I ask everybody to look at the story of Colorado's Summitville Mine. This was an active gold mine, using a cyanide leaching technique to extract ore. But a couple of years ago the mine's poorly designed holding ponds broke, overflowed, and a very, very toxic flow went down Alamoosa Creek in southern Colorado.

About a year and a half later, the foreign company which owned the mine declared bankruptcy and left. At the request of the State, EPA took over the cleanup.

Here is the kicker. The companies that now own the site are claiming that EPA's effort to clean up is a taking of their property, for which they deserve compensation.

Under the Constitution, this claim would be laughed out of court. But if we pass this takings legislation, it is exactly the kind of claim that American taxpayers would be forced to pay.

The public has already paid twice for Summitville: First, the environmental disaster, and now the EPA cleanup. Let us not have to pay a third time. They have got to be kidding.

More on the Summitville disaster on special orders tonight.

URGING BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR A GOOD JOBS MEASURE, THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM RELIEF ACT

(Mr. ROTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I have a proposal I think can bring our liberal and conservative friends together, because if we want to do something for working people in America, if we want to create jobs, jobs, jobs, I have a bill for us to

sign onto. I am introducing the Travel and Tourism Relief Act.

The travel and tourism business is the second largest employer in America. More than 11 million people in this country are employed directly or indirectly by the tourism, and travel and tourism industry amounts to nearly 15 percent of America's gross domestic product, generating more than \$800 billion a year in expenditures.

Travel and tourism is the Nation's single largest export. More than 50 million visitors come to the United States each year, generating about \$71 billion in revenues. With taxes at their current level, tourism also generates approximately \$50 billion for the State and local governments.

Under my bill, Mr. Speaker, the travel and tourism industry will grow and it will help our local communities. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support our working people and small business owners by backing the Travel and Tourism Relief Act. Together we can secure a prosperous future for communities across America.

Mr. Speaker, this bill helps kids. This bill helps moms and dads. Rather than a government handout, this bill creates jobs for the American people. I ask Members to sign on.

REPUBLICAN PROPOSALS TOUGH ON CHILDREN, TOUGH ON VETERANS, AND TOUGH ON SENIOR CITIZENS, IN ORDER TO PAY FOR TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this morning we have heard a lot about the Republican plan to cut \$17.3 billion from the budget, the rescission package. Where are they going to cut? The Women, Infant and Children Program, school lunches, the Day Care Lunch Program. They are tough on kids.

Who else are the Republicans tough on? They are going to be tough on the veterans, because they want to cut \$50 million out of veterans' facilities. Those veterans who need medical help are going to lose \$50 million.

They are going to be tough on our senior citizens. Two million senior citizens will lose the LIHEAP Program to help them heat their homes. In my district tonight in northern Michigan it is predicted to be 20 below zero, but we are going to be tough on those people. How about housing for seniors? One million seniors will lose housing under the \$17.3 billion rescission package they propose.

Tough on seniors, tough on veterans, tough on kids. Where is the money going to go? Is it going to go to deficit reduction? No. Is it going to reduce the debt? No. It is going to go for the Contract With America, to pay for the tax breaks for the wealthy, those who make more than \$180,000. That is where the money is going.

CHANGES INSTITUTED BY NEW REPUBLICAN PROPOSALS WILL RESTORE THE REAL AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, this session of Congress deserves to be called historic for many reasons: For its hard work, for keeping its promises, for making real changes that America wants. Many of these votes have been passed by widely bipartisan measures.

In just a few more days Congress is going to do something that the American people have wanted for decades. We are going to fix the failed welfare system. Welfare is not going to be a way of life. It is no longer going to trap one generation after another generation after another generation.

A new generation of Americans is going to find out that the American Dream is more than a welfare check. The American Dream starts with children being children, not having children; with staying in school, not dropping out; with finishing high school, not getting high; with work, not welfare.

The changes we will offer for the welfare system will embrace the American Dream. Our changes will reaffirm faith in ourselves by reaffirming one of the basic tenets of the American way of life—individual responsibility. So hold on for a few more days, America. Help is on the way.

THE REPUBLICANS PERMIT FREE LUNCHES FOR THEMSELVES, BUT NOT FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(Mr. BRYANT of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what is most appalling about the efforts of Speaker GINGRICH and his lockstep Republican chorus to deprive 13 million American children of their School Lunch Program is that the Republicans refuse to give up the freebie lobby lunch program which they themselves are able to enjoy under the current rules of the House.

While the lockstep Republicans gladly jeopardize the nutrition and education of children in America, they have repeatedly refused to even allow a vote in this House to outlaw the free lunches, free gifts, free football and theater tickets, and free golf vacations that they are able to accept from the special interest lobbyists seeking to influence their decision.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that if the Republicans have their way, there will be no free lunch for kids who cannot afford one, but there will be